(e) Apart from instructions issued in this regard, the bank has increased the staff strength at the branch to ensure improved customer service.

(f) and (g) According to the bank, no fraud or irregularity leading to fraud has come to light at the branch between 1987 and 1991, till date.

Amount sanctioned under Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme to Maharashtra

4110. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of farmers benefited under the "Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990" till date in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) the amount sanctioned under the Scheme to Maharashtra and the amount released, till date; and

(c) when the remaining amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The data reporting system does not generate district-wise or separate category-wise break-up of relief provided to beneficiaries under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990. The beneficiaries under the Scheme are, farmers, artisans and weavers in rural areas. The total number of beneficiaries including farmers provided with debt relief under the Scheme by all credit institutions in the State of Maharashtra as on 12-8-1991 was 28,75,337.

(b) and (c) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that a sum of Rs. 134.13 crores and Rs. 40.31 crores has been sanctioned and released to Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank (MSCB) and Maharashtra State Land Development Bank (MSLDB), respectively, as fifty percent share of Government of India for implementation of the ARDR Scheme in that State for co-operative banks. NABARD has also sanctioned and released a sum of Rs. 134.13 crores to MSCB and Rs. 40.31 crores to MSLDB as loan towards the State Government's share of fifty percent of debt relief cost. NABARD has also sanctioned Rs. 12.75 crores and released Rs. 10.32 crores to the Regional Rural Banks in the State of Maharashtra. It is expected that the remaining amount will be provided in the current and the next financial year.

Construction of Four Lane Road on Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Jagatpur Section of National Highway No. 5

4111. SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a four lane road on the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Jagatpur Section of National Highway No. 5 in Orissa;

(b) if so, when the project is likely to be taken up;

(c) whether there is any proposal to have the World Bank assistance for this project; and

(d) if so, the details therof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. This project costing about Rs. 113 crores

has been posed to the World Bank for financial assistance under the proposed Second National Highway Loan. Negotiations for the loan have been completed recently. However, the loan is yet to be signed with the World Bank. As such, it is too early to indicate the date of commencement of the work.

[Translation]

Promotion of Handloom Industry

4112. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new policy for the promotion of handloom industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Government of India have recently announced the policy measures for promoting and strengthening Small, Tiny and Village Enterprises which, *inter alia*, covered certain policy initiative in respect of Handloom sector also.

(b) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

The following are the enunciations made in the Small Scale Industrial Policy with a view to promote handlooms, to sustain employment in rural areas and to improve the quality of life for handloom weavers.

2. Schemes for the handloom sector will be redesigned keeping in mind the local and regional needs. Constraints of coverage will be removed so as to include bulk of the weavers who are outside the corporate/cooperative fold.

3. Existing schemes will be redrawn and suitably revised under three major heads :—

(a) **Project Package Scheme :** Under this scheme, area-based projects for product development, upgradation of technology, improvement of marketing facilities will be drawn up.

(b) **Welfare Package Scheme :** Number of welfare schemes and quantum of funds earmarked for them will be substantially augmented.

(c) **Organisation Development Package :** Schemes for participation in the share capital will be re-drawn under organisational development scheme for imparting a better management system in the existing state agencies.

4. Janata Cloth Scheme which sustains weavers often on a minimum level of livelihood will be phased out by the terminal year of the VIII Plan and replaced by the omnibus project package scheme under which substantial funds will be provided for modernisation of looms, training, provision of better designs, provision of better dyes and chemicals and marketing assistance.

5. A vastly expanded role for the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) is envisaged. NHDC would be the nodal agency for increasing the supply of hank yarn and of dyes and chemicals. Spinning capacity in the cooperative sector will